

Our work during the first quarter of the Farm to Table Project included: bringing all the partners up to speed on the project; clarifying the roles ADS staff and each of our partners will play in this project; establishing a method for communicating with partners; and beginning to identify outcomes and goals – a common vision for what we hope to accomplish.

### **Successes**

- **Partner Participation:** We have had two full partner meetings to date, and our third is scheduled for November 30. Our first partner meeting was so well attended the room was over capacity. It was literally “standing room only” as we could not squeeze in more chairs. In addition to the enthusiasm evidenced by the attendance, the participants were eager to begin turning the idea of affordable and accessible local produce in institutional settings into a reality. Whether their passion stemmed from a commitment to sustainable methods of food sourcing or access to healthy food as a social justice issue, all the partners shared a common goal of making fresh local produce the easy choice for senior meal and child care programs. To facilitate communication and access to information for all our partners, we established a web site to share project materials:  
<https://sites.google.com/site/farmtotableproject>.
- **Contracts:** We received our signed contract from PHSKC last week and will submit our first invoice today. Contracts for Washington State Department of Agriculture (WSDA) and Puget Sound Food Network (PSFN) are being routed through HSD for approval and should be signed by both agencies early next week. PSFN has hired the staff person who will be identifying and working with local farmers to connect them with meal programs. WSDA has offered the position to a very strong candidate and hopes to have them on board early next week to begin developing assessment tools.

### **Challenges**

The project is taking shape, and while we have identified goals and anticipated challenges, we have not yet defined all the steps involved in bringing food from farm to table. Much of this will occur through the assessments WSDA will conduct with meal providers and the farmer connections made by PSFN. Our challenge will be not jumping ahead to a solution, and, instead, allowing the process to guide us in developing sustainable and replicable solutions.

Staff time has been, and will continue to be, a challenge for both senior meal program and childcare providers. Eager as they are to get fresh local produce in their menus, it is difficult for them to break away for meetings, interviews, etc. However, their participation and feedback are necessary to successfully bring the farm to table concept into practice.

Finally, while our roles within the scope of our own project are clear, we are still a bit unsure as to our role(s) within the context of the larger CPPW project. We would like to learn more about the other projects and workgroups, and we need a bit more guidance with regard to the cooperative purchasing workgroup.